Today's News - Tuesday, August 30, 2011

- Bernstein offers a thoughtful tribute to the man who laid out Burning Man which "epitomizes thoughtful city planning," making him an ally of New Urbanists and giving him "a soul mate in Janette Sadik-Khan."
- The East Coast's older buildings may add a lot of charm to towns and cities, but they're rarely tested by earthquakes; heed the lessons to be learned from Christchurch, New Zealand.
- It's official: NTHP's Save America's Treasures program, which has sparked so much community development, gets the budget ax (and it doesn't even save dollars in terms of tax revenue - how short-sighted can we get?!!?).
- Woodman cheers the shortlist for the Windermere Steamboat Museum for including "some of Britain's most hotly tipped young practices," but in the long run, if new approaches to competitions aren't taken, "no one's a winner."
- Moore takes in Reykjavik's "dazzling" new Harpa concert hall: "It glitters. It is a bit disco...something about it arrests skepticism and prevents its dismissal as a banker's bauble" (great slide show, too).
- Rothstein is less taken by the new Martin Luther King Jr. memorial on the National Mall: "kitsch here strains at the limits of resemblance...there was something profound and touching in the original vision."
- More kudos for Ranalli's Brooklyn community center - an "oasis in limestone and brick."
- Welton wades into the trials and tribulations of restoring a 1973 Meier manse on a Michigan lakefront (and talks to some now-notables who were on the design team way back when).
- People who live in Bilbao "live the 'Guggenheim effect' every day": the museum "did more than alter the skyline and bring in tourists - it changed the city's soul."
- Rawsthorn offers insights into the flurry of upcoming design events in Europe and Asia, with a thoughtful focus on South Korea's Gwangju Design Biennale and Ai Weiwei.
- A young Vancouver firm juggles projects from Soweto, South Africa, to Saltspring Island, B.C.
- MoMA PS 1's 9/11 exhibition "September 11" tackles how our visual perceptions have changed because of that day.
- Three possible scenarios for NYC's Folk Art Museum: is it too late to save it?
- Litt is cautiously optimistic about winning designs for a new school in the 2011 Cleveland Design Competition: there wasn't "a single, powerful solution," but the winners "simmer with good ideas."
- A long shortlist of cleantech companies in the running for $3.5 billion in cleantech investment.
- Three we couldn't resist: You, too, can live in Disney-Pixar's "Up" house - if you have $400,000 and a yen to live in a Salt Lake City suburb + First installment of short takes on architects' own desks (ours would scare everyone) + FLW's Robie House joins Lego set.
- Call for entries deadline extended for ARCHITECT'S Annual Design Review.

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A Vision of How People Should Live, From Desert Revelers to Urbanites: Rod Garrett, who laid out Burning Man...in Nevada, drew accolades for his approach...Black Rock City epitomizes thoughtful city planning...people are responsible for managing their own waste...cars are sidelined...In that approach [he] had allies among the New Urbanists...also had a soul mate in Janette Sadik-Khan... By Fred A. Bernstein- New York Times

Older East Coast buildings pose earthquake risk: The 18th- and 19th-century buildings that add so much charm to towns and cities scattered along the East Coast are rarely tested by the forces that accompanied the 5.8-magnitude temblor...earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, showed how much damage...can occur when older structures are subjected to even relatively moderate seismic activity... -- Leo Argiris/Arup; Frederic Schwartz- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Budget cuts force closure of historic preservation programme: But Obama administration pours money into land conservation and recreation..."was a model public-private partnership...Its demise is a terrible loss...We were only asking for $5m to keep things going...[grants] were a spark for community development"...does not save dollars in terms of tax revenue. -- National Trust for Historic Preservation; Save America's Treasures- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Right now, no one's a winner: Adopting a new approach to competitions could save time and money – and offer better opportunities for young practices + Young firms dominate Windermere Steamboat Museum shortlist: Some of Britain's most hotly tipped young practices have been shortlisted... By Ellis Woodman -- 6a; Carmody Groarke; Adam Khan; Witherford Watson Mann; Sutherland Hussey; Reiach & Hall; Terry Pawson; Niall McLaughlin- BD/Building Design (UK)

Harpa: Reykjavik's dazzling new concert hall basks in the reflective glory of Olafur Eliasson's inspired design: It glitters. It is a bit disco. It has something of Brezhnev-era Soviet architecture, but with bling...something about it arrests scepticism and prevents its dismissal as a banker's bauble...It is an admirably self-effacing role that the architects have chosen, and a collaborative one... By Rowan Moore -- Henning Larsen Architects; Artec [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

A Mirror of Greatness, Blurred: ...memorial to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr....There is always an element of kitsch in monumental memorials...So it should be no surprise that something similar happens to Dr. King...But kitsch here strains at the limits of resemblance...there was something profound and touching in the original vision. By Edward Rothstein -- Lei Yixin; Ed Jackson Jr.; ROMA Design Group [slide show]- New York Times

Oasis in Limestone and Brick: A community center grows in Brooklyn: ...Saratoga Avenue Community Center comes across as a hip adobe pueblo...on an inauspicious site in a "rough and tumble, blue-collar" neighborhood still overcoming a longstanding reputation for urban blight..."This is what you make buildings for. It's the framework in which people live their lives." -- George Ranalli [images]- Harvard Magazine

On the Waterfront: After purchasing a revered archetypal lake house designed by Richard Meier, a retired couple launches into the home's second renovation...Forty years after its creation, the 1973 Douglas House [in Harbor Springs, Michigan] has returned to its original intent—an architectural experience that moves the visitor through an exploration of inside and outside spaces. By J. Michael Welton -- Frank Harmon; Tod Williams; Henry Smith-Miller; Michael Trudeau [images, slide show]- Dwell

Living with art: Not by accident, certainly by design, this city's belief in the allure of beauty has made it famous...The people of Bilbao live the "Guggenheim effect" every day...the museum did more than alter the skyline and bring in tourists - it changed the city's soul. -- Frank Gehry; Santiago Calatrava; Luis Maria Uriarte; Norman Foster; César Pelli; Philippe Starck- Boston Globe

A Flurry of Design Events in Asia and Europe Fill the Autumn Calendar: Preparations for...the Gwangju Design Biennale in South Korea, faced an unusual problem when one of its artistic directors...was

imprisoned...Despite the anxiety about Ai Weiwei, the biennale is scheduled to open Friday as planned...under its über-theme "design.is.design.is.not.design." By Alice Rawsthorn -- Innovation Festival on social design; Milano Design Weekend; Maison & Objet; London Design Festival; 100% Design; Lodz Design 2011; EXD/Experimentadesign in Lisbon; Copenhagen Design Week; Beijing International Design Triennial; Seung H-Sang; Something & Son; Florian Beigel; Nader Tehrani; David Chipperfield; Amanda Levete
Gwangju Design Biennale to explore meaning of design
Sept. 2 to Oct. 23- New York Times

A design team builds on solid foundations – near and far: If the career arc of Sean Pearson and Alyssa Schwann were cast in cinematic terms, the climax of the film would have been in 2009. That's when [their] multidisciplinary design firm RUF (it stands for rural urban fantasy) was simultaneously juggling projects in Soweto, South Africa, and on Saltspring Island.- Globe and Mail (Canada)

MoMA PS 1 Plans 9/11 Exhibition: Rather than exploring how art has evolved over the past decade or commemorating images of the day itself, it has organized a show that tackles how our visual perceptions have changed because of it. Called simply "September 11" and opening on that day, it will occupy the entire second floor of PS1's home in Long Island City, Queens, as well as other unexpected places in the building and around the neighborhood.- New York Times

Can the Folk Art Museum Be Saved? A Look at Three Endgame Scenarios: ...the dilemma that the institution faces is whether or not it can shrink to a more manageable size and still retain a central place in the art community and in New York City, or whether it is too late to save it.- Artinfo

2011 Cleveland Design Competition: A NEW School Vision Awards comes up with fresh visions for Cleveland International School: The takeaway...is that the competition didn't elicit a single, powerful solution...Nevertheless, the 92 entries...from 20 countries...simmer with good ideas. By Steven Litt -- Michael Dickson; Michael Robitz/Sean Franklin/Alexandra VanOrsdale; Feld Architecture; Drozdov & Partners [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

GCCA Later Stage Award Nominees: 28 cleantech companies competing in the Green Building and Advanced Materials categories...will gain exposure to 29 venture capital judges with $3.5 billion in cleantech investment- Global Cleantech Cluster Association (GCCA)

Up, Up and Away: ...there is nothing soft and cuddly about how Disney protects its intellectual property...So how is a homebuilder in this Salt Lake City suburb getting away with selling a near-identical copy of the floating house in the Disney-Pixar film "Up"? ...price: $400,000...Pulling off some of the cartoon design details required some real-life architectural compromise. [slide show]- New York Times

Architects' desks: Sam Jacob, director at FAT: "I might cancel that order for a behemoth desktop computer..."- BD/Building Design (UK)

Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House joins Lego set: ...joins Fallingwater and New York's Guggenheim Museum. Other buildings in the series include the White House, the Empire State Building and the Burj Kalifa in Dubai. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries (deadline extended): ARCHITECT'S Annual Design Review; open to projects built in the United States or designed by a U.S. firm; new deadline: September 14- Architect Magazine

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